

Abstract

Tongs comprising a four link mechanism (12, 20, 22, 30) wherein the links are pivotally connected together by means of parallel pivot joints (23', 24', 31', 32'). wherein the link mechanism includes two mutually connected links (20, 30) which define therebetween an angle that approaches 180° at the closing end position of the tongs, and wherein the length of one (30) of said two links is adjustable and includes two parts that are moveable in the longitudinal direction of the link, wherein the first (36) of said parts includes a slot (51) for guiding a shaft (31) carried by said second part (70) and belonging to the pivot joint of the adjustable link (30). The shaft (31) carries a rounded body (50) that has mutually discrete first formations disposed around its periphery, said formations being located at mutually different distances from the shaft (31) about which the second part (70) is rotatable, wherein the first part (36) includes on the longitudinal axis of the length adjustable link (30) a second formation (38) that is generally complimentary to the first formations (33) for engagement with one of said formations.